

Lana Gordon, Interim Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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Five New Members Join Kansas Department of Labor Executive Team

TOPEKA, Kan – The Kansas Department of Labor has hired five new Directors’ since Lana Gordon was named Interim Labor Secretary. Together, these new members bring a wide range of experience and are working to improve the efficiencies and services of the Department.

“I am excited to have this team on staff,” said Lana Gordon, Interim Labor Secretary. “They have a lot to offer the Department and the customers we serve.”

Brad Burke, Chief Attorney

Burke earned a bachelor’s degree and a JD from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He has been an attorney since 2001, and is a member of the Kansas Bar, the U.S. District Court – District of Kansas and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. He has been a prosecutor in Douglas and Johnson County, and has been General Counsel for the State of Kansas Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Burke previously served as Chief Attorney for the Juvenile Justice Authority before becoming Chief Attorney for KDOL. He is also currently an adjunct professor for Baker University.

Brett Flachsbarth, Unemployment Insurance Director

Flachsbarth was promoted to this position from Director of Unemployment Insurance Appeals. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas in Political Science and received his JD at the Washburn School of Law. Flachsbarth was previously an attorney in KDOL’s Legal division.

Barbara Hersh, Communications Director

Hersh is a graduate of Washburn University and has more than 10 years of experience in the communications field. She worked for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as the Public Information Officer before coming to KDOL.

Larry Karns, Workers Compensation Director

Karns is a graduate of the University of Kansas, School of Business and the Washburn School of Law. He practiced workers compensation law in Kansas for more than 36 years before coming to KDOL as the Director of Workers Compensation.

Dawn Palmberg, Chief Financial Officer

Palmberg earned an associate degree in Office Administration and a bachelor’s degree in Accounting from Washburn University. She worked for the Kansas Insurance Department, Adjutant General’s Department and the Kansas Water Office before coming to KDOL. Palmberg has served on the SMART accounting system Users Group and currently serves on the SMART Website Board; both groups promote and provide tools for a better understanding of the state’s accounting system.

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